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SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

The Official Organ of the South African Library Association

Vol. I

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No. I

GREETINGS — WELKOMSGROETE

I am glad to welcome the publication of "South African Libraries" as official organ of the S.A. Library Association.

In South Africa we are only commencing to appreciate the potential significance of library activities in national education. The developments which have recently taken place, including the formation of the S. A. Library Association are, therefore, cordially to be welcomed. I hope that through this journal, and in other ways, the Association will make a great contribution towards the forward wave in this respect, which should mean so much to our country.

J. H. HOFMEYR
Minister of the Interior.

There is no profession in South Africa so scattered as that of the Librarian, none in which the links of communication are so weak. It is to remedy this that the Council of our Association has decided to publish a quarterly journal which may serve as a bond between our members and help us to understand each other's problems.

Since 1930 the Council has felt that it needed some way of letting members of our Association know what it has been trying to do in their interest. Such a journal will also enable members to let the Council know what action they consider should be taken in matters affecting their welfare.

May our journal in time become as useful and as influential as the organs of the English and American Library Associations.

A. C. G. LLOYD
President, South African Library Association.

Ek verwelkom die geleentheid om met dankbaarheid die eerste verskyning van die jongste onder ons tydskrifte, "Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteke", te begroet en hom 'n hartlike welkom toe te roep. Die knapie het lank op hom laat wag, en ek vertrou dat hy onder u gewaardeerde leiding vinnig

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sal groot en sterk en werklustig word, soos Suid-Afrikaanse knape 'n manier het om te doen. Hy bring nog 'n fakkel van lig, beskawing, opvoeding en — ek wil dit van harte vertrou — samewerking en broederskap in ons samelewing. Hy sal rigting gee aan ons biblioteekwese en hy sal probeer na-aan aan watter behoeftes dit kan voldoening bring deur die lengte en breedte van die land.

Openbare biblioteke, veral op die platteland, is vandag in 'n onbevredigende toestand. Hulle dien, oor die algemeen, alleen 'n klein groep van mense, en wel 'n groep wat hulle diens die minste van almal nodig het, en hulle dien daardie groep sleg. Hulle het geen uitgangspunt nie. Hulle sluit nie by die opvoeding van die volk aan nie, en hulle sluit nie by die geestelike of die stoflike behoeftes van die volk aan nie. Hulle beteken sommer byna niks in die intellektuele lewe van die nasie, en hulle doen daar baie min voor.

Dit is 'n groot taak om daardie toestand reg te maak, en ek is oortuig daarvan dat "Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteke" sy deel van daardie taak sal verrig. Ek is ook oortuig daarvan dat die blad onder u redaksie sal soek om Afrikaanssprekendes en Engelssprekendes in nouer geestelike gemeenskap met mekaar te bring deur waardering wedersyds, van altwee kante, van mekaar se geestelike goedere.

Met baie dank vir die taak wat u vrywillig aanvaar het en met die beste wense vir die welslae van ons blad,

Noem ek my,

Dienswillig die Uwe,

G. W. EYBERS,

Onder-Sekretaris vir Onderwys en lid van die Raad van die S.-A. Biblioteekvereniging.

I am very happy to be permitted to say a word of greeting to the librarians of South Africa at a time when you are taking such a forward step as beginning the publication of a professional journal. And at the same time I want to express my admiration of a group which during the most difficult period of world wide depression has pushed forward steadily toward better things. From my far viewpoint, perhaps it may be granted that I get a clearer perspective of the situation than do those persons who are actually on the ground. What has happened since 1928 is enough to strengthen the determination of any worker who will pause to realize that permanent structures rest upon foundations deep laid.

When five years ago it was my good fortune to visit South Africa, the elements of a library structure were clearly evident ; but the field was so vast that it was not surprising the parts were slow in being brought together.

Librarians of skill and faith were to be found, each one so intent upon his own job that he did not have the incentive for meetings and conferences. With the organization of your library association the way was open for mass attack upon any and all of your professional problems. You have long had books ; you have had buildings ; neither possibly in exactly the quantity and kind to be found in the more progressive libraries elsewhere, but, certainly, readily capable of modification to meet your more urgent needs. The principle of operation in the African field was not abreast of the best practices in England and America, but here again the differences were, perhaps, climatic — spring does not come everywhere at the same moment. The genius of your own land may be expected to develop plans best suited to your requirements, nor are you bound to look to other countries for methods, except as they may be readily adapted, or stimulatingly contrasted, to your own structure. The main-spring of the united movement could not help setting the wheels going as soon as you came together. The Association, therefore, I count as your first step toward a library system for South Africa.

The position of the librarian, outside of the few larger cities, seemed to me to be on a plane rather below professional standards. Library committees are a power for good, and you are fortunate to have so many which are keen about their jobs. However, unless the librarian is more than merely a clerical worker the resources of the library must long remain locked up except for the unusual reader peculiarly skilled in the use of books. While I hope you may be able to continue to call upon your committeemen for the duties they can best perform, I am gratified that through the vacation schools you are training the younger librarians for more important and more skillful services. In time you should have a full time library school so that the rank and file of your professional staff may be trained at home, leaving it to the exceptional person to go abroad for experience which may be used merely as a measuring stick for your own methods and practices.

If I should be asked to pick out one move in the South African library field since 1928 which I thought more capable of good results than any other, I would, of course, point to the happening at the State Library in Pretoria. In making this selection I am not unmindful of the outstanding, almost equally important, development in the library of the University of the Witwatersrand. The combination of events is significant, and promises well for many a long year to come. But my experience leads me to believe that the library system of a nation depends upon the impetus coming from a national centre. Library progress in the Union must be fairly uniform ; and that uniformity cannot just happen. Upon the action of the library association in a broad way, and upon the activity of the State Library forces in a

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special and continuing sense will depend the progress of the service and its satisfaction to the people.

The ideal library of a modern democratic people is a free library, that is, a library paid for by all the people and so open to all under conditions which assure equal privileges to all. The best investment a state can make is in citizen intelligence. With the school as a preliminary course in preparation for that education which the civilized man will give himself throughout his years, the library speedily becomes a service which is clearly essential and to be sought at any price. Fortunately, it is cheap, and under modern methods readily available to all the people. The work, therefore, you librarians of South Africa are engaged in is a worth-while work, and I am sure you will devote to it increasing strength and mounting enthusiasm until it meets your unqualified approval.

Please accept my congratulations on your worthy accomplishments. I have faith you will keep moving forward.

MILTON J. FERGUSON, *
Librarian, Public Library, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The publication of the South African Library Journal should be an event of prime importance in the cultural history of South Africa. It will be a sign that South Africa at long last is beginning to recognise the importance of the library as a cultural and educative as well as a recreational instrument.

Libraries develop late in pioneer lands where the inhabitants are still struggling with their material environment, but it has always seemed strange that South Africa with its comparatively long cultural history and its high standard of education should for so long have looked upon the library as a kind of book club from which people with money to spare could draw recreational literature. Our bilingualism is probably partly to blame, but it is certain that with a few outstanding exceptions the authorities directing our social and educational policies have not realised the significance of the library in the life of our nation. We have been far too self-complacent and have not developed that attitude of self-criticism in comparison with other countries which is so necessary for progress.

Thanks largely to the leaven which the Carnegie Corporation of New York has so generously supplied and to the activities of some of our librarians, there has recently been a healthy ferment of which the establishment of the free libraries at Germiston, Johannesburg and Pretoria, the provision of model school libraries in Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg, the holding

* Mr. Ferguson was one of the Carnegie Commissioners who visited S. Africa in 1928-9.

of vacation courses for librarians, and the publication of this journal are the outward and visible signs.

Among the many functions which this journal can perform one seems to be of outstanding importance. The elevation of the librarians of South Africa to the status of a profession with adequate educational and technical qualifications and with all else that is implied in membership of a learned profession could perhaps do more for the advancement of the library movement than anything else.

I am sure that this object and many others are in the minds of the founders of the journal and I wish it every success.

CHARLES T. LORAM,

*Sterling Professor of Education, Yale University,
and first Vice-President of the S.A.L.A.*

It gives me the greatest pleasure to welcome the first production of the Journal of the South African Library Association.

I feel that the climate of South Africa is all against the development of a real love of reading on the part of the population, since sunshine is always attracting people out of doors and there are no long winter-evenings when the hobby of reading can be developed. I feel, however, that until the habit of reading has been formed by the people of this country, it will not be possible to develop any sort of South African thought.

Every effort should, therefore, be made to make libraries attractive, and by this I mean not merely the provision of ephemeral fictional literature but the instillation into the public mind of a desire for wide reading over the complete field of literature. Now that the South African Library Association has decided to publish a Journal I feel that one of its principal objects should be to keep before the minds of its members the paramount necessity of inducing the public to read.

With this object in view I trust that the Journal may prove a great success and not only bind together the libraries of the Union but also make a beginning of the reading habit.

Yours sincerely,

H. R. RAIKES,
Vice-President.

I should like to offer congratulations on the appearance of the long desired library journal. The Association is indeed fortunate in having secured as Hon. Editor the services of one who is not only enthusiastic and broad-minded in his attitude towards the library movement but so eminently fitted to discharge the onerous duties of such a post.

I welcome the journal as an essential means of linking together the Members of the Association and retaining their interest, providing help and inspiration to librarians and committees, particularly of small libraries, and generally as indispensable for the purposes of furthering all the objects of the Association.

If there is one thing more than another for which one would like to solicit the help of "South African Libraries" it would be for the establishment of an effective and comprehensive free rural library scheme to include children as well as adults. The duty of providing rural library service has been shamelessly neglected; a neglect for which South Africa is now paying so dearly in the gravity of its Poor White Problem.

With very best wishes for success to you and your able Assistant-Editor,

M. M. STIRLING,
Secretary.

Everyone who is interested in the welfare of the masses will welcome the publication of "South African Libraries," as an agency of the greatest potentiality for the introduction and advancement of the Public Library movement in this sub-continent.

By the Public Library Movement I do not refer to the foundation of Royal and National libraries for scholarship or ostentation which has gone on from time immemorial, nor to the monastic and collegiate collections of the last millennium. Still less has the movement any connection with the subscription or circulating library which sprang up in the middle of the eighteenth century for the delectation of small leisured groups and which was facetiously described by Sheridan in 1774 as "an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge."

All these institutions served in various ways a minute fraction of the nation, and only remotely affected the minds and lives of the great majority.

The Public Library Movement to which I refer began in Great Britain in the middle of the nineteenth century with an agitation for the establishment of rate-supported Town Libraries for the free use of all urban residents. The object of the movement was eventually to raise the mental and economic level of the entire nation by placing the records of the accumulated knowledge of the human race within the reach of everyone, and thereby to provide the means of self-education for all.

In great Britain the movement has so far resulted in the establishment of over 500 urban free libraries, of 60 systems of county libraries for the rural areas, and of a National Library for supplying students in all districts with expensive and rare books.

In South Africa, unfortunately, the height of the agitation in the 50's of last century found the large urban centres already provided with proprietary subscription or circulating libraries, and these institutions became the models for all later foundations.

The result has been that to-day — outside Johannesburg and Pretoria, which have tardily followed the British example — there is a white population of one and a half millions, of whom barely 40,000 subscribers have free access to collections of books, largely of the circulating library type.

I fervently hope that the efforts of "South African Libraries" will assist in removing an intolerable disability and a standing reproach from the South African nation.

S. B. ASHER, F.L.A.,
*City Librarian, Johannesburg,
 and Chairman of the Witwatersrand and
 Pretoria Branch.*

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

A. AFRICA.

Durban. "Howard College is still without a library, though there are 670 students and a large staff... It is estimated that £2,000 is needed to provide the nucleus of such a library." (*The Star*, May 23, 1933). A report of a lecture on University library provision given by Mr. P. Freer at Howard College appeared in the *Weekend advertiser*, June 18th, 1932.

Examinations. At the December Examinations of the (British) Library Association (the last to be held under the old Syllabus) the following South African candidates were successful in the subjects named : — R.F.G.Bompas (Routine); Miss I. Du Plessis (Classification); Miss M. G. Frew (Cataloguing); Miss A. S. Giesken (Organisation); Miss E. Hartmann (Organisation); Miss E. E. Hoare (Cataloguing); all of Johannesburg; and Miss G. F. Elliott (Bibliography) of the University of Cape Town.

Johannesburg. Children's Book Club. A Children's Book Club has been started in Johannesburg recently. It is open from two to six daily and all day on Saturdays. The subscription is a very moderate one. (See *i.a. The South African Stationery Trades Journal*, March, 1933 : 7).

Public Library. The City Council has decided to add an extra floor to the New Library Building to be used as a museum, at a cost of £30,000.

University of the Witwatersrand. The Foundation Stones of the New Library Block were laid by His Excellency the Earl of Clarendon on April 10th.

Pretoria. Members appointed to the Board of Trustees of the State Library : — By the Minister of the Interior : Sir John Wessels, Mrs. M. C. Malherbe, Professor Leo Fouche, Professor T.H. Le Roux, Mr. W. Millar ; by the City Council of Pretoria : The Mayor (*ex officio*), Col. Sir T. G. Truter, Mr. P. M. Van Leer ; by the Board of the Carnegie Development Fund : Mr. C. Christie, Mr. M. G. Nicolson, Professor R. B. Young ; by the Administrative Council of the S. A. Library Association : Professor J. P. R. Wallis.

Pretoria. Pretoria will receive £7,000 for additions to the State Library.

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LIBRARY COÖPERATION.

ACCESSIONS — DUPLICATES — EXCHANGES — DESIDERATA.

Once the principle of coöperation and inter-library lending is accepted, we feel that this feature could become of mutual benefit to all participating libraries.

Accessions. (Non-copyright). It is neither possible nor desirable to print complete lists of accessions to all South African libraries. On the other hand it would be most useful to know of the whereabouts of some very expensive material, even though this were 'for reference only'.

Duplicates for sale and /or Exchange. When we remind ourselves that the cost of cataloguing and shelving ranges between 1/6 and 2/- per volume (exclusive of the purchase price) we are more inclined to seize every opportunity for disposing of any unwanted books, pamphlets, periodicals and official publications. Clearing houses for the last two types have recently been established in the United States. It is a commendable practice that we hope South African librarians will emulate. The desirable reshuffling of imperfect periodical sets also falls into this category.

Desiderata. "South African Libraries" is now available as a medium through which librarians and others may express their bookish wants, and also advertise any vacancies they may have. The advertisement tariff for Books is 1d per word to members of the Association, and 2d per word for others; for Situations Vacant and Wanted a minimum of 7/6 per quarter page; or leaflets may be submitted for insertion at 2/6 per hundred.

APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS, ETC.

ANDERSON. — Miss M. E. G. Anderson, B.A., Assistant, Public Library, Stafford, to be Junior Assistant, University of the Witwatersrand Library, Johannesburg. Miss Anderson is certificated for the University of London School of Librarianship Diploma. She is South African born.

ASHER. — Mr. S. B. Asher, F. L. A., Librarian, Public Library, Johannesburg, whose term of office expires this month, has been reappointed for a further term of three years.

EASLEY. — Miss E. M. Easley retired in June from the staff of the South African Public Library, Cape Town, after 31 years' service.

HODGES. — Mr. H. S. Hodges, managing director of the Rhodesian Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd. died suddenly at his home in Bulawayo recently.

LÖTTER. — Miss T. Lötter, Assistant, Germiston (Carnegie) Library, to be Librarian, Public Library, Vereeniging.

MACLENNAN. — Miss MacLennan resigned in April from the staff of the Public Library, Bloemfontein. We offer her our best wishes upon the occasion of her wedding.

MAPLE. — Mr. H. L. Maple, Sub-Librarian, University of Cape Town, to be Chief Cataloguer, Royal Egyptian University, Cairo.

MOORE. — Miss Hilda M. Moore, B. A., formerly Librarian of the Cape Technical College, Cape Town, and Junior Reference Assistant, Public Library, Johannesburg, to be Editor of the Union Catalogue, Northern Regional Library System, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. A letter of hers appears in the *Wilson Bulletin* for April.

NIVEN. — Miss M. A. Niven, for six years on the staff of the South African Public Library, Cape Town, to be temporary Cataloguer of the Gubbins Library of Africana, University of the Witwatersrand Library, Johannesburg.

NORMAND. — Miss Dorothy Normand, B. A., Junior Assistant, University of the Witwatersrand Library, Johannesburg, resigned in June for domestic reasons.

VACANCIES.

EAST LONDON. — The Library Committee of the East London Public Library is looking out for a suitable Librarian.

EARLIER STEPS TOWARDS A SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY JOURNAL.

“**U**NDER the auspices of the Association (1) the first conference of librarians and those interested in the libraries of South Africa was held on Tuesday, the 5th April (1904, at Johannesburg). Mr. (now Dr.) Reunert presided over the conference (and there were present E. B. Sargent, Educational Adviser to the Transvaal; Mr. Barnett, Superintendent-General of Education, Natal; Howard Pim, Chairman of the Johannesburg Public Library; Gardner F. Williams, President of the Beaconsfield Public Library; Miss Martin, of Krugersdorp; Mr. Ross of Pietersburg (now of Kimberley); Mr. Bond, of Burghersdorp; and a large number of delegates representing the libraries of Cape Colony, Natal, Transvaal, Rhodesia, and the Orange River Colony...). Mr. Ward... read the inaugural address written by the Hon. Mr. Justice Laurence...

‘One of the principal objects of such an association as I have mentioned would, I apprehend, be the establishment and maintenance of something in the nature of a library journal; and, while opportunities for personal conference must remain exceptional, much, I conceive, might be effected by the existence of such a vehicle of communication. The obstacles to such a step are no doubt considerable. That of ways and means is not, perhaps, the most serious. Such a journal, if published, say at quarterly intervals, at a moderate price, and capably edited, would probably be subscribed for by almost every library in the country deserving of the name; it would afford a useful channel of publicity for advertisements of a certain type; and probably the committees of the principal libraries might be willing, as an experiment, to contribute a modest subsidy towards the expenses of its production. The difficulties of management and editing might prove more formidable. It would have to be issued from some permanent centre, with a local secretary, and possibly the burden of editorial supervision might be accepted in rotation — say for six months or a year — by some of the leading librarians, who would doubtless take a practical interest in such a project. Perhaps in the present paper it may not be wholly futile to make some attempt to indicate, without indulging in rhetoric or venturing on dogma, some few of the many topics for the discussion of which such a publication might afford an appropriate channel...’ (2)

‘Mr. Ward moved that something be done in the way of a recommendation that steps be taken to start a library journal. Mr. Dyer deprecated the attempt at the present moment to start any journal specially for South African Libraries, and appealed that if a section of the Science Association were set apart for those interested in libraries, it was to be hoped when that body issued a journal, a section would be devoted to library questions. The time was no more ripe now for a library journal in South Africa than it was for a literary one in 1824, when Mr. Jardine started the *Cape Literary Gazette*.

(1) The South Africa Library Association for the Advancement of Science. (S.A.A.A.S., or “S₂A₃”).

(2) S.A.A.A.S. Report, 1904: 527.

Every librarian out here wanted to see a South African Library Association, but he hoped that it would long be and remain a part of the great and growing Science Association (3). 'Mr. Innes and other speakers deprecated any attempt at a separate association, or any special journal for libraries at the present moment, and it was unanimously agreed to ask the Council of the Association to arrange a special sub-section of Section D at all future annual meetings to deal with the question of libraries'" (4).

At the next year's meeting Dyer contributed another interesting paper (5) but we are unaware that the South African Association for the Advancement of Science has again acted as publishing medium for South African librarians.

"To-day one can scarcely regret the failure of such a scheme. My own preference is for a quarterly journal at first, sectionally devoted to (a) General papers (b) South African library notes and queries (c) Home and Foreign *ditto* (d) South African bibliography, with perhaps a further section (e) corresponding to the *Library Assistant...*" (6).

Thus we wrote nearly five years ago, and to-day's launching of South Africa's first library journal now falls to our lot.

BIBLIOTEEKTERME IN AFRIKAANS.

Saamgestel deur

IDA DU PLESSIS en ELIZABETH HARTMANN en vele medewerkers.

Deur die groot massa Engelse artikels wat reeds voor die oprigting van die offisiële orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging voorhande was, maak daardie stukke noodwendig die grootste deel van hierdie nommer uit.

Die eerste verskyning van die voertuig wat die biblioteekamptenaars van Suid-Afrika nouer sal verbind het 'n passende geleentheid gelyk om 'n poging te maak om ons vak-terminologie uit die staanspoor uit te normaliseer. Daar is baie begrippe wat aan die biblioteekwese eie is, wat in die bestaande woordeboeke of heeltemal nie voorkom nie, of ongenoegsaam weergegee is. Ten einde te voorkom dat elkeen in sulke gevalle sy eie omskrywing benuttag, wat alleen tot vaagheid en verwarrig kan lei, is dit ons plan om deur die saamwerking van alle Afrikaanssprekende kollegas 'n vaste terminologie op te bou. Ongelukkig, egter, moet selfs, die lys oorgehou word tot die volgende aflowering, wat gro tendeets aan Afrikaans bestee sal word.

(3) *Library journal*, XIX : 369, July, 1904.

(4) *Ibid.*, p. 368-69.

(5) "Libraries for scantily populated districts". S.A.A.A.S. *Report*, 1905-06 : 523-28.

(6) *Library Assistant*, XXI : 214, Oct., 1928.

THE BIRTH OF PRINTING IN SOUTH AFRICA.*

By A. C. G. LLOYD, B. A.

Librarian, South African Public Library, Cape Town.

IN the year 1784, probably towards the latter end of it, there arrived in Cape Town the man who was to introduce the art of printing into South Africa. Born at Hof, in the marquisate of Beyreuth, Johan Christian Ritter came of a family whose members were all employed in some branch of the bookselling or bookbinding trade ; two brothers were in the bookselling business at Hof, and two of his three sisters were married into the same trade. Ritter himself retained an interest in a firm engaged in the book-trade in his native land until the day of his death in 1810. Coming to an appointment as bookbinder in the service of the Dutch East India Company, Ritter either brought with him, or received shortly after his arrival, a small printing press, on which, as he states in a memorial addressed to Sir George Yonge some sixteen years later, 'he practised printing such trifles as his small apparatus would allow'. These 'trifles' were probably handbills and advertisements ; but a more ambitious undertaking was the issue 'during three years' of 'Small Almanacs calculated after the Meridian of this place'. These almanacs are twice alluded to in contemporary literature. Barrow, writing of the one issued for the year 1797 remarks, 'that of the current year has somewhat suffered in its reputation by having stated an eclipse of the moon to fall on the day preceding the full, and to be invisible, when, unluckily for the almanac-maker, it happened at its proper time, visible and nearly total. Lady Anne Barnard was no less unkind in her reference to poor Ritter's experiment. Writing under the date 1st June 1800, to Henry Dundas, she says :—

'This page is like a newspaper. That reminds me — the Governor is resolved to have one here. If it answers as the printing of an Almanac did in the Dutch time, it will be droll. The printer made a fortune of two shillings by it : each of the four districts took one at sixpence — all the inhabitants read or copied out of that one'.

Of these early productions the only one at present known to exist is a fragment of the Almanac for the year 1796 preserved in the South African Public Library at Cape Town. Nothing issued from Ritter's press during the first decade of its working seems to have survived. Of the three alma-

* Revised by the author, with acknowledgements to *The Library*, 3rd ser. V : 31-43, Jan. 1914.

nacs Barrow shows one to be for 1797, the fragment is part of that for the previous year, and Lady Anne's reference to 'the Dutch time' proves the remaining one to have been issued for 1795 or earlier.

It is now necessary to go back a few years to examine the proposals of the Government at the Cape to import printing materials from Holland. It appears from a despatch of the Governor Van de Graaff to the Seventeen in Amsterdam that some time prior to December, 1783, requisition had been made by his predecessor for the supply of a printing-press for the use of the colonial government. The Governor's request was refused by the Seventeen in their despatch of 5th December, 1783. Three years later requisition was again made, and again refused. Van de Graaff submitted that writing work had so much increased in consequence of the expansion of the Company's settlement that it could no longer be properly done. He proposed that a press with a trained printer should be sent out, and that certain of the clerks be put to learning the trade of printing. The project seems to have been revived in 1793, for in that year the Council of Policy at the Cape resolved to establish a printing-press, and had promised the appointment as Superintendent to J. C. Ritter. Writing to the Council in March, 1795, Ritter states 'that the petitioner does not know if his hope and expectation will ever be fulfilled, yet it is certain that the materials for the said printing establishment have not arrived here, and thus also have not yet been imported'. In a petition to Sir George Yonge, dated 20th August, 1800, Ritter avers that the Seventeen had at last in 1795 authorised the Cape Government to import a press, and had acceded to their recommendation of himself to be appointed as Managing Printer to Government. Before this arrangement could be effected, the Cape was surrendered to the English, and Ritter was again disappointed.

In January, 1799, a master printer, in the person of Harry Harwood Smith, arrived in the Colony. He was armed with a letter of introduction to Earl Macartney, setting forth his qualifications as a printer, but was given an appointment as clerk and examiner in the office of the Secretary to the Government. In a memorial of 21st April, 1800, Smith states that since his appointment fifteen months before he had been assisting in the printing of all proclamations and papers required in the Secretary's office. He had received a great part of his printing materials, and in a short time he was expecting to receive the remainder with a complete printing-press. He proposed to confine himself to printing such public papers as were required by the departments of Government — notices and catalogues of sales, and things of a similar and mercantile tendency. He prayed to be allowed to follow his profession as a printer. The Government replied that the application

would be considered, but nothing was in the meantime to be printed nor the press to be used except for the service of Government.

It now becomes necessary to enquire on what press Smith was assisting to print proclamations and public papers in 1799. There is no record of the importation of any press but Ritter's prior to this date. In the Cape Archives there is preserved a military proclamation in Dutch and English signed by Major-General Dundas, Commander-in-Chief at the Cape, and dated 26th February, 1799. It would seem likely that this proclamation was printed on Ritter's press. From January, 1800, onwards, there are several dated proclamations, to print which Smith's materials may have been used to eke out Ritter's meagre store.

While Ritter and Smith had been urging the Government to recognise their claims, a rich and important firm of merchants had sent to Europe for a press and all necessary materials sufficient to undertake business on a far more ambitious scale. These merchants, Messrs. Walker and Robertson, were men of many interests, who, in addition to being wholesale merchants on a large scale, were slave-dealers dealing in as many as six hundred slaves in a single consignment. The firm even obtained letters of marque for one of their vessels, which was sent out as a privateer to prey on French and Spanish shipping. Surely this union of slave-dealing, privateering and printing must be unparalleled in the story of the making of books! Mr. John Robertson spent six months in London selecting type and other materials, and engaged three printers, with a Dutchman as translator. By 1st February, 1800, the press had been set up at No. 35, Plein Street, and work begun. On 15th July Sir George Yonge issued a proclamation stating that Messrs. Walker and Robertson had been appointed sole printers to the Government, and that the firm had his permission to publish a weekly newspaper. The sole right to undertake commercial printing was granted to these monopolists, and notice given that no one else would be allowed to print under a penalty of one thousand rix dollars and the confiscation of all printing materials.

This proclamation was a source of much consternation to Ritter and Smith who immediately memorialised the Governor. Sir George Yonge promised that the Government would purchase a press which Ritter was then expecting from Europe, and on 20th September, Smith was compelled to deposit his printing materials under the care of the Secretary to the Government.

On 16th August Messrs. Walker and Robertson issued the first number of their paper, the 'Cape Town Gazette, and African Advertiser', which appeared in English and Dutch. Complaints soon began to arise about the

price of the paper and the charge made for advertisements. Further, the Government became uneasy as to the editing of what was, to all intents and purposes, an official gazette being in private hands. It soon became known that the Government intended to take all printing into its own hands. Smith began to bombard Major-General Dundas with applications to be 'reinstated' as Government printer, a situation which he had never held. Messrs. Walker and Robertson were informed of the Government's intention, and were asked to put in a claim for compensation. The firm sent in a detailed account amounting to some 17,000 rix dollars. The amount to be paid for the press, printing materials, and compensation was eventually compromised at 12,000 rix dollars, equivalent, at the current rate of exchange, to £2,000. On 10th October a proclamation was issued setting forth the reasons which had induced the Government to take the press into its own hands, and giving notice of a reduction in the price of the newspaper and of all charges for mercantile advertisements, handbills, etc. Smith was, on the fourteenth instant, promised a situation in the office of the Government printer. Between the 10th and 19th of the month the press was removed from 35, Plein Street into the Castle, and from this date all printing in Cape Town was done by Government, until the arrival of George Greig some twenty-two years later. The story of the battle for the freedom of the Press has been sufficiently well told in Pringle's 'Narrative of a Residence in South Africa', and in Meurant's 'Sixty Years Ago', to need no repetition here.

There are in the Union Archives at Cape Town a series of accounts showing the expenditure and revenue of the Government press. Unfortunately, these contain no record of what publications were undertaken on behalf of the general public. In the list of emanations from the press given at the end of this paper, only the earliest items are included, and the list makes no pretension to be complete. The first publication of an unofficial nature was, as far as present knowledge goes, the religious pamphlet of 1801. It may have been in this year that Meent Borcherds, the *predikant* of Stellenbosch, issued a poem dedicated to the Agricultural Society. This is said to be the first literary production of the press in South Africa, but no copy of it is known to me, and I do not even know its title. However, Meent Borcherds is also accorded the honour of being the author of the second literary product, a copy of which, unique it is supposed, is in the South African Public Library. This Poem, 'De Maan' was issued in four parts during the years 1802-3. The undertaking was no more profitable than was poor Ritter's Almanac, for Mr. Borcherds' son records in his 'Memoirs' that the sale of copies did not bring in sufficient to defray the cost of the paper on which it was printed. In 1803 appeared Baron A. Van Pallandt's 'Remarques géné-

rales sur le Cap de Bonne Espérance'. Fifty copies of this brochure were struck off at the Government press, without the sanction of the Governor, during the absence of General Janssens in the Eastern Districts of the Colony. The story of the seizure of the issue and of the trouble which its publication brought to the author has been told by the present writer and Mr. Graham Botha in their preface to an English translation of the 'Remarques' which was published in 1917.

In 1805 there appeared a sort of combined 'Crockford', Army List and Civil List, under the title of 'Lyst van alle Collegien'. To this succeeded in 1807 the 'African Court Calendar', which made its annual appearance under different titles until quite recent times. This 'Calendar' was quite the South African 'Whitaker's Almanac', and from the year 1810 onwards included a street directory within its scope of usefulness.

Before leaving Cape Town printing, it may be as well to record that the first productions of a public press were 'The South African Commercial Advertiser', and a Latin Grammar of some ninety pages issued in 1824. The last-named was published by George Greig, but printed by Bridekirk, the Government printer, whether on the Government press is uncertain.

Bethelsdorp, a settlement of the London Missionary Society in the district of Uitenhage, not far from Port Elizabeth, was the second place in South Africa to possess a printing-press. The date at which this press was set up is a matter of great uncertainty. Dr. Bleek catalogues an item 'Tzitzika Thuickwedi mika Khwekhwenama' ('Principles of the Word of God for the Hottentot Nation') printed at Bethelsdorp in 1805 or 1806. He describes the work as a catechism in the Hottentot language, by the Reverend Dr. van der Kemp and J. Read, missionaries of the London Missionary Society. Dr. Bleek goes on to say that Sir George Grey had not succeeded, up to the time of publication of the catalogue, in finding a copy of this catechism, although every effort had been made, both in the Colony and in Europe, to ascertain if a copy was in existence. It will be observed that Dr. Bleek has no uncertainty as to the title; he was living at a time when he could have had intercourse with those who may have remembered the publication. I myself have been told by a Rhodesian collector that he knows of a copy in private possession in England. In spite of all this I am very sceptical as to the existence at any time of any such publication, and still more do I doubt the date and place of its printing. Should the catechism exist it would be of extreme importance to philologists as an example of the Hottentot language before it became vitiated by outside influences. As this 'Tzitzika' has been so often spoken and written of, it may be as well to detail with some exactness my reasons for doubting its existence. No mention is made of the

Catechism either in the Biography of Van der Kemp, or in the reports of the London Missionary Society. This is the more curious as the London Society always carefully recorded the philological labours of its missionaries, especially in the nature of translations of the Bible, hymns, or religious works. Some years earlier, the Society printed at length in its report Dr. Van der Kemp's 'Specimens of the Caffre language'. So much for the writing of the work. As to its being printed at Bethelsdorp, if ever it was written, an examination of the Society's reports shows that no press was set up at the settlement until the year 1816. In the year 1805 the London Missionary Society sent out a press to Dr. Van der Kemp, but the vessel foundered between Cape Town and Algoa Bay, the press going to the bottom of the sea. "We lay our hands upon our mouth and say 'the Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away'" was the comment of the Doctor. Lastly, in the year 1808, he sent to Holland to be printed a work on the Epistle to the Romans and a treatise on midwifery for the use of Bethelsdorp. If a press had been in his possession, it is extremely unlikely that Dr. Van der Kemp would have sent this treatise so far away to be printed. (1)

The next town to start printing was Griqua Town, which, according to the Directors of the London Missionary Society, had a press in 1821. Here Mr. Helm printed some copies of a spelling book in the 'Bootchuana' language. This statement again presents some doubts and difficulties to the mind, in spite of its definite character. It must be said at once that no copy of this spelling book is at present known. In 1826 Robert Moffat was stationed at Lattakoo or Kuruman, at no great distance from Griqua Town. In that year he sent home to London a Sechuana Spelling Book which he had compiled, and of which the London Missionary Society caused two thousand copies to be printed and sent out. If there was already a press at Griqua Town which had previously issued a Sechuana spelling book it would seem unnecessary to send the manuscript so far. The post would have to pass through Griqua Town on a journey to Cape Town, which at that date took some months to perform. A perusal of Mr. Moffat's life would lead one to suppose that when he set out to learn Sechuana no literature existed to assist him.

After the year 1824 presses became numerous throughout the country, and in the following list I have only given the earliest known product of each press.

(1) However, the following occurs on p. 140 in a new life of *Doctor Vanderkemp*, by A.D. Martin (Livingstone Press) [1931?] "a Catechism entitled 'Principles of the Word of God for the Hottentot Mission' being printed at the mission press in 1804." — Ed.

Cape Town (Ebotwe).

1784. Handbills, etc.

1795. Almanach voor 't jaar 1796.

1796. " " " 1797.

1799. 26 Feb. Military proclamation.

1800. Government circulars from January onwards.
16 Aug. First number of 'Cape Town Gazette, and African Advertiser' appeared.

1801. Troostelyk gesprek tusschen den Heere Jesus en de Moede-loose Ziel. *

Borcherds (M.). Poem to Agricultural Society (?).

1802. African Kalendar for MDCCCII.*

1802-3 Borcherds (M.). De Maan.

1803. Pallandt (Baron A.van) Remarques générales sur le Cap de Bonne Espérance.

1803. Wetten van het Departement der Maatschappy tot Nut van het Algemeen aan Cabo de Goede Hoop.

1804. Ryneveld (W.S.van). Aanmerkingen over de Verbetering van het Vee aan de Kaap de Goede Hoop. (2)

1805. Lyst van alle Collegien.

Ordonnantie van der Buiten-districten, etc.

1806. Lyst van alle Collegien.

1807. African Court Calendar (continued under various titles for eighty years). (3)

Reglement voor de Societeit der Loge de Goede Hoop.

1808. Halloran (L.). Sermon on Dishonesty.
" " Redevoering (preached on board H.M.S.
'Britannia' at sea after battle of Trafalgar.)

Bethelsdorp.

1805(?) Tzitzika Thuickwedi mika Khwekhwenama.

1816. Spelling Broadsheet.

Griqua Town.

1821. Sechuana Spelling book.

(2) Proclamatie. Jan Willem Janssens... 9 February, 1804.
Found in the library of the American Antiquarian Society, at Worcester, Mass. by Douglas C. McMurtrie, and reproduced in his 'The Introduction of printing into South Africa', based mainly on Mr. Lloyd's article. (Supplement to *Output*, vol. II, no. 7, 1932; published by Seligson & Clare, Ltd.). — Ed.

(3) See "Uit die Geskiedenis van Almanakke in Suid-Afrika", deur F.C.L. Bosman. (*In: Jaarboek van die Nederduits-Gereformeerde Kerke in Suid-Afrika... 1931. Kaapstad : Nasionale Pers, 1930 : 73-83*) which reproduces the title — and other sole surviving page of the 1796 *Almanak*. — Ed.

Chumie.

1824. Incwadi yokula ekutetini gokwamaxosa. (4)

Lovedale.

1826. Bennie (J.). A systematic vocabulary of the Kaffrarian language.

Grahamstown (Erini).

1830. Adams (T.P.). An eulogy on Dr. Alexander Cowie and Mr. Benjamin Green.

Kuruman (Lattakoo).

1831. Baka ea Pocho ea Tuto le Poluko tsa Yesu Kereste ; 2nd ed. It is possible that 'Lichuanelo tsa Molemo' was printed in 1830.

Platberg.

1832. Archbell (J.). Ritapelo tsa Sabath.

Fort Peddie (Ennqushwa).

1840. Inncwadi yemebedescho.

Thabanchu.

1840. Katikisimi ia ba birioang Bawesliana Metodita.

Umlazi. Natal.

1841. Incuadi yokuqala yabafundayo.

Durban.

1841. Incuadi yesibini yabafundayo.

Pietermaritzburg.

1841. Ivangeli e li yincucli, e li baliweyo G'Umatu.

Bloemfontein.

1850. The Friend of the Sovereignty and Bloemfontein Gazette.

(4) We have an unidentified reference to an 'Alphabet', etc. printed here on the 19th December, 1823.

These two items are in the Kimberley Public Library ; all the others are in the South African Public Library.

South African Libraries is set in IMPRINT old face , "an original type designed by the Lanston Monotype Corporation... presents a letter which, while it possesses old face characteristics, is free from any archaisms... It is an admirably constructed letter and possesses more spirit than the so-called 'old style' ". (Morison : *On type faces*, 1923:67)

A LITTLE PROBLEM IN PURPLE. (1)

By C. CHRISTIE. (2)

"Who fished the murex up?", the source of the Roman purple, interested many generations before Browning recalled the problem by spatchcocking his question into the verses to the memory of Keats. Unfortunately, curiosity on the subject was set at rest, after ten centuries, by an earnest inquirer of Bristol who traced the source of the purple to the secretion of a snail. It is one of these insignificant odds and ends of knowledge that smother illusions. Purple, to me, has never worn the same suggestion of royal and ancient opulence since. I want to submit to you a little problem which, unlike the other, has not been solved, which also has much to do with purple — purple in prose — and I hope sincerely that, if its solution is ever reached, no illusions will be destroyed in the process.

Incidentally, the secret of the one purple, when it is discovered may perhaps be as curious as the secret of the other. Incidentally, too, the snail is thought by biologists to have no use for the secretion and the people who produced the other purple do not always seem to have been aware that the secretion of their temperaments was anything else than quite plain prose. But, cutting further cackle about this mollusc, what is the problem?

There are certain familiar passages of classical rank in English prose which convey to the reader not only something more than the sense conveys — for most prose of that rank conveys more than is said — but some appeal to remoter or more resistant emotions. In secular prose the best known examples in which this quality of appeal, or whatever it is, far surpasses the purely verbal interest, are probably the passage in Landor's "Imaginary Conversations"—

"There are no fields of amaranth on this side of the grave ; there
"are no voices, O Rhodope, that are not soon mute, however tune-
"ful ; there is no name, with whatever emphasis of passionate love
"repeated, of which the echo is not faint at last ;"

and the passage where Gibbon takes farewell of the History —

"After laying down my pen I took several turns in a berceau, or
"covered walk of acacias, which commands a prospect of the coun-

(1) A paper read before the Witwatersrand and Pretoria Branch of the S. A. L. A., on Wednesday, April 27th 1932.

(2) Mr. Christie until his retirement a year ago was Chief Clerk, Public Works Department, Pretoria.

"try, the lake, and the mountains. The air was temperate, the sky was serene, the silver orb of the moon was reflected from the waters, and all nature was silent. I will not dissemble the first emotions of joy on the recovery of my freedom and, perhaps, the establishment of my fame. But my pride was soon humbled, and a sober melancholy was spread over my mind, by the idea that I had taken an everlasting leave of an old and agreeable companion, and that whatsoever might be the future date of my History, 'the life of the historian must be short and precarious ;'

and the passage from Sir William Temple's Essays —

"When all is done, Human Life is, at the greatest and the best, 'but like a foward Child, that must be played with and humoured a little to keep it quiet till it falls asleep, and then the Care is over.'"

Then in another key, there is the great sixtieth chapter of Isaiah where, Mr. Saintsbury said, one of the highest points of English prose is probably reached —

"Arise, shine ; for thy light is come..."

If there is anything to equal that it may be the twelfth chapter of Ecclesiastes —

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..." with the wonderful passage about the silver cord and the golden bowl.

But I need not labour this preliminary by further quotation for you all have your own collections of such things. To describe these effects as cadences is departing, rather, from the use of the word in the text-books but it is the word which seems fittest and, as Swinburne used it in "Essays and Studies" to describe a certain arrangement of colour and F.W.H. Myers used it, to much the same purpose, in his essay on Virgil, so, probably, it may be used without impropriety in this connexion too. Perhaps the description of these effects as submerged cadences would be better and I have used that phrase. It helps to make for definiteness in a region where nothing is defined.

Just to clear the ground, it seems proper to say that no claim is made that this submerged cadence is an essential constituent of the greatest English prose. It is entirely absent from much or most of the very greatest. For instance, it is no detraction from the merit of the closing passage of Sir Walter Raleigh's "History of the World" to say that, in that great piece of English — I suppose the most eloquent apostrophe in the language — there is no hint of submerged cadence. It has highly studied and self-conscious characteristics and these probably exclude it from the class of cadenced prose which seems to demand a larger measure of spontaneity. There is one glory

of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars ; for one star differeth from another star in glory. Cadence is only one member of a constellation. There are qualities of Richness and Harmony and Colour and Music — and there is here, plain prose like Hazlitt's with fundamental merits of its own. The passages quoted from Landor and Gibbon and Temple owe their celebrity almost wholly to their submerged cadences, but the passages from Isaiah and Ecclesiastes are not only eminent examples of cadence but possess glories to which the others can lay no claim.

Lord Morley in his "Recollections", (Vol. II. Chap. V), has a series of passages that approved themselves to him as great prose. They are concerned with matters of conduct and morals and a certain accent of finality and authority adheres to them. But they have little of this radio-active quality of cadence. Take, again, that very catholic collection — of very unequal interest — Matthew Arnold's "Note Books". Notwithstanding his acute feeling for cadence he did not select the Note Book passages for their possession of this quality nor for the possession of any other eminent but secondary qualities of prose. His concern, as it was Lord Morley's, was with the sense, not with the vehicle ; which, of course, is as it should be. Incidentally, I suppose it would be too much to expect from people like Morley and Arnold, deeply concerned with "the shifting fortunes of great conceptions of truth and virtue" and such high matters, the same interest in aspects of prose and verbal expression which interested so deeply J. A. Symonds, for example.

Now, what can be said, more or less definitely, about these moving passages of enchantment and their submerged cadences ?

Firstly, if we leave out of account the English Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, their number is not large. It may be that the well-known ones have been fortunate in their recognition and that many are wasting their sweetness in gardens rarely visited. Somehow I doubt it. The wonderful vogue that authentic passages attain rather indicates that, if there were many others, they would not remain unrecognized, for their appeal is universal and there is a quality of compulsion in it. Children respond to many of them quite quickly. The attraction of the submerged cadence is felt even if the meaning is not grasped at once. It may be said that children are not judges of such things ; that the melody of Three Blind Mice appeals to all children but the fact does not endow that melody with particular merit. The only reply is that the melody of Three Blind Mice is as much a classic as anything mentioned here and, if its attraction can be explained, the explanation will help towards the solution we seek.

Again, these submerged cadences seem to owe very little to rhythm

following Mr. Saintsbury's interpretation of the term in his "History of English Prose Rhythm"—one of the most lovable of bedside books in spite of its forbidding title. Mr. Saintsbury's elaborate analyses are, in no sense, analyses of cadence. Rhythrical patterns are of course discernible here and there but the fires in these opals owe little to them. Probably some of the effects are enhanced by the absence of any suggestion of pattern. Mr. Elton, Mr. Clark and the other authorities on rhythm would find one no doubt. It would be forgivable even to appear to fail in respect to the memory of one of the greatest men of letters who ever lived but, following Mr. Saintsbury's methods, a rhythmical pattern may be discerned in "Bradshaw"! So may we leave it at that to the galaxy of learning and scholarship which gets so much fun out of this business of rhythm?

Well, then, what is the provenance of such things? The essay does not abound in them but as soon as one has said that the question arises—Are there no submerged cadences in Sir Thomas Browne and Lamb and Stevenson?—and, of course, there are. I doubt if passages from the novelists bulk largely in your private anthologies. But surely there is Meredith, though it seems to me, his great pieces owe their merit to other qualities. There is, of course, the remarkable close of "Wuthering Heights":—

"I lingered round them under that benign sky ; watched the moths
"fluttering among the heath and harebells, listened to the soft
"wind breathing through the grass, and wondered how anyone
"could ever imagine unquiet slumbers for the sleepers in that
"quiet earth."

Autobiography provides a scanty harvest. There are things in Scott's Journal and in Rousseau that linger in the memory.

Ruskin seemed to have the gift of imparting these harmonies to his wonderful prose in greater measure than any other modern but the harmonies are diffuse. Every now and again the cadence of a passage seems steadily to rise to a climax, then some chord is missed and the harmony is not sustained. But the phrase of Macaulay applies with great truth to Ruskin—when he died there were many secrets buried in his grave.

The prose of the poets is not rich in submerged cadence. It is odd that the prose of Keats or Shelley or Wordsworth or Tennyson—masters as they were of so many enchantments—should exhibit so little of this quality which has such close affinity with their work in verse. Hazlitt, in the *Essay on the Prose Style of Poets*, observes that

"there is a want of rhythmus and cadence in what they write without the help of metrical rules... The measured cadence and regular sing-song of rhyme or blank verse have destroyed, as it were,

"their natural ear for the mere characteristic harmony which ought
"to subsist between the sound and the sense."

That is very faithfully expressed.

Divinity makes an occasional contribution. There is Donne and there is Jeremy Taylor — the opening sentence of "Holy Dying" will occur to you —

"There goes another faithful failure..."

And of course, there is the share of the divines in the thrilling and vibratory passages from the Authorised Version, the Services for Morning and Evening Prayer and the Prayer Book version of the Psalms.

But what of the historians ? What of Macaulay ? What of Gibbon ? And there was Froude. Surely examples should abound in these regions — but they don't. Perhaps Froude has moments but cadence of the submerged order seems to have little in common with the heightened and telling presentation of historical incident. Macaulay's picturesque effects, the long roller with its "withdrawing roar" on the shingle and the crashing return, is impressive and remarkable enough but there is nothing submerged in its cadence.

Probably the "Acacia" passage is the best remembered that Gibbon ever wrote and the antiseptic that has preserved it is this quality of cadence. You will agree that it is utterly spontaneous and unstudied. There is no trace of the file and the burnisher. Few passages ever cost him less labour, probably. We do not know, though, how much the spontaneity owes to the long years spent on the History.

Leaving the matter of provenance for the present may something be said on certain characteristics of these passages ? So many of them, it will be agreed, owe their movement to the expression of solemn and universal things, one affliction of the human heart or another, some high abstraction, tragedy and renunciation and the veiled future and Death, the inspiration of the greatest English prose, especially in this supercharged kind.

The emotional associations complicate the problem. It cannot be regarded merely as a problem in style and expression. It goes much deeper — "fire has come into the harp, fire from beyond the world." Many of these passages are more than reflections possessing some unusual and moving attributes of colour and atmosphere. They touch chords not normally responsive to language. Their sincerity — sincerity touched, often shrouded, by emotion — is patent and convincing. It takes the heart captive, though not, perhaps, the intellect, but then we have it on authority that the satisfaction of the intellect is no part of the business of the heart. There are dissociated lines whose august pathos seems to place them far beyond any

commentary. In whatever language, by whomsoever translated, they would carry an appeal to experience that life disqualifies anyone from resisting, an appeal that gathers strength as life lengthens. There are the Virgilian passages and Mr. Myers refers to the mass of emotion which has slowly gathered round certain lines of Virgil's as it has round certain texts of the Bible, till they come to us charged with more than an individual passion and with a meaning wider than their own. (*Essays — classical*, p. 118). And there is the Benedictus in the Service of Morning Prayer. We need not have been baptized to feel the extra-terrestrial magnetism of that. It is pure Tyndale and Coverdale; King James' men found nothing to improve in its texture.

Cadence, mere cadence, any more than mere sonorousness or mere rhythm, will not secure the laurel of recollection in tranquillity. There must be some intellectual basis. It may be admitted that cadenced passages are not always freighted with thought. In some there is found merely an affirmation generally recognized and approved or a reflection which might occur in an uninspired form to almost anybody. There are remarkable examples, full of difficult thought, and others which, apart from their harmonies and the possession of this magically incandescent quality of cadence, are not of particular interest. The analogy with poetry obtrudes itself. I think it is established that mere music will not last in that sphere either. Even Whitman is outlasting the musicians!

/ If we want a high content of thought there is the aphorism, a purely intellectual thing with certain affinities, sometimes, to prose of the cadenced kind. (Consider the remarkable example from Emerson — remarkable for both its wisdom and its cadence — "We snatch at the slowest fruit in the garden of God." The cadence, it may be noted, owes nothing to the alliterative consonants; the "orchard" of God would be just as effective).

Aphorisms, however, have not won the same degree of celebrity as the cadenced passages. The good aphorism is the quintessence of good sense expressed in quintessential form. Cadence is not in the least an essential quality. The brilliance of the good aphorism is that of a perfectly cut diamond. Cadence is more akin to the lustre of the pearl. The aphorism owes much to the file and the labour of the craftsman — "My thoughts! It is the building of a house for them that troubles me!" cried Joubert — and cadence owes little to craftsmanship but everything to what we call, in despair and futilely, inspiration. Spontaneity is of the essence of these cadenced effects. It is quite likely that the most notable of them were not achieved by taking pains. They are, in most cases, the expression of a mood by a person skilled in the use of words; they are not deliberately sought for but are

thrown off in some exaltation of temperament when very gifted people are, as the phrase has it, rather above themselves.

You will recall perhaps, how the level excellence of Lord Morley's "Rousseau" is suddenly disturbed and flames into the unforgettable, temperamental, passages.

Another thing these harmonies have in common is their restraint. They always suggest so much more than they say. They are never exhaustive and precise. Their illumination is from within or from some remoteness beyond the red and the violet in the spectrum of language.

Sometimes the cadence is deliberately broken up or interrupted. The writer seems afraid to proceed on the elevation he has reached without grasping some buttress of fact; has felt impelled to restrain the emotional expression by the interjection of some phrase on another plane. An example is the interjection of the phrases about Schiller in the great passage on Oxford in the preface to the Essays in Criticism. Sometimes, as I venture to think, a series of paragraphs has been kept designedly matter-of-fact and quiet to set out some jewel of a phrase like Pater's —

"wonderful indeed was the craftsman, divine or half divine, who
"by the subtlety of his art had breathed so wild a soul into the
"silver" —

which suddenly emerges from a page of rather low-toned prose. C.E. Montague's eminent example in verse seems to owe something to an interjectional effect —

"Brightness falls from the air ;
"Queens have died young and fair ;
"Dust hath closed Helen's eye" —

"Jewels five words long" which have held their place on "the stretched forefinger" through three centuries.

Of course this is all very airy. Practical people are often impatient with these inquiries. They argue that prose is merely a vehicle of thought ; that if a man had anything to say he should take pains to say it as clearly as he can and leave the rest to Providence. They mark 90% for clarity. They think concern about style a waste of time ; that, when any writer begins to worry overmuch about how he is saying a thing he spoils the clearness of his thinking ; that if a certain attraction attaches to a man's manner of writing it is well, but if he has to try and infuse any quality of attractiveness it is not well.

Much of what they say is thoroughly sound but, of course, there is no reason why these great cadences, though they do not illustrate the qualities the practical people most admire, should not be studied as great music or great poetry is studied. The impinging of emotion on a temperament is like

the impinging of oxygen on spongy platinum and the incandescence is as well worth study in the one case as in the other.

One may argue, cheerfully, that the sedulous ape, when he is not a genius, is a nuisance and that the "stylist" of the nineties with his mannerisms was a tiresome fellow none of whose cadences ever had a chance of survival. Indeed it is emerging slowly that some of the real stylists of the Victorians were people who achieved a style fortuitously by taking extraordinary pains to make their thought clear — Newman, for instance, and Goldwin Smith and Bryce. Their biographers witness how they all toiled incredibly to be clear — Lord Bryce not least successfully — often in regions of thought where the attainment of clearness is a matter of immense difficulty, often achieving a rare beauty of expression, a lucidity that almost sparkles, but only as a sort of by-product of this intense toil after clearness. If the edges of a subject were vague, after they were done, it was not their fault. You may remember Bagehot's outburst to Hutton — "There is a pale whitey-brown substance in the man's books which people who don't think take for thought but it isn't." There is no "whitey-brown substance" in these giants, all is taut and sinewy. Cadences rarely emerge. Hard thought and close reasoning are inimical to them.

But we seem to move from one disturbing digression to another, probably because cadence owes nothing to logic! Returning to the main stream it is notable that the men who have given the world these irradiated passages are not all highly educated men or cloistered scholars. But they are all big men, often men of their hands, men of the stature of Lincoln for instance, or Bunyan. These bugle passages that stir the heart do not emerge from the work of nonentities and *poseurs*. How the few, simple, words — could they be simpler? — in the record of Valiant — for — Truth's passage of the River — "and the Trumpets sounded for him on the other side" — have thrilled one generation after another.

Compare, for its other qualities, this dramatic and masterful sentence, with no hint whatever of cadence, produced from some other octave of that wonderful instrument, Bunyan's prose : —

"Then Appolyon straddled quite over the whole breadth of the way, and said, I am void of fear in this matter; prepare thyself to die; for I swear by my infernal den that thou shalt go no further: here will I spill thy soul."

Not all cadences surrender their secrets at once. Some are more deeply submerged than others. In passages that at first yield no harvest there may be discerned gradually a higher, at any rate, a different, cadence which patience may disengage. Pater has passages like that — the close of "Marius

the Epicurean" is in my mind — passages that have a music of their own, not immediately communicable like the more evident music of the Tyndale-Coverdale, or Ruskin, or Landor passages. There is great music which is immediately understood. There is other music of equal distinction which reveals itself slowly. So it seems to be with some of these more deeply submerged cadences. The mind takes time to attune itself to them.

It is not helpful to say of these passages that they are sheer poetry because, even if they were, poetry is, in one analysis (not the last) merely prose raised to a higher power and the problem is in no way simplified. One might as helpfully say that they are sheer music — or sheer magic ! In fact the association with poetry brings our little problem out of a region of comparative calm into a region of controversy. Once you start an inquiry into poetics two things are certain — you will never stop and you will never get anywhere. Two other things may be said. Cadence is no more an essential of great poetry than it is an essential of great prose, though it pervades some of the greatest poetry and some of the greatest prose. Again, prose passages of the kind we are considering are generally inspired by elemental things but in poetry, of course, the range is infinite, poetry producing her sublimest magic out of the thinnest air with a low content of the oxygen of sense.

But, it may be urged, it is not always an easy thing to say when blank verse is prose and contrariwise. What are you going to do about passages of which, unless the source is known, you cannot say whether they come from a work of formal prose or not ? Any one of Nashe's lines, quoted earlier, which entranced C. E. Montague, provides a case in point. And, it may be added, why waste time searching for cadences in the "gulfs and estuaries" when there is "the sea which is Shakespeare", abounding in cadence of the most sublime and exalted kind ?

Very true, but I wanted to avoid the approach through poetry and the misty region of poetics. Prose did seem to promise some illumination, however faint. Besides, I doubt if many of these famous single lines, in which our poetry is so rich, owe their immortality to cadence. Take two instances. Lord Morley gives primacy "in all the exercises of our English tongue" to the verse ending with what he calls "the tender summary of it all"— "After life's fitful fever he sleeps well," and Swinburne quoted, as the high-water mark of quality of sound in English poetry —

"Speak silence with thy glimmering eyes"
"And wash the dusk with silver."

I suggest that these lines and others of great distinction owe nothing to cadence but everything to the vigour of the imaginative conception and its expression. As to the blank verse, if submerged cadence finds a place in it

so much the better blank verse it will be, and as to the prose approach, it seems to me that along that path lies the solution if there is one. Evading, for these reasons, any further pursuit of the analogy with poetry may a word be said on the analogy with music?

And at this point difficulties crowd in. "The most inscrutable of all the arts," as Bryce called it, is jealous of analogies and parallels. Every variety of prose can be shewn with some plausibility to have its counterpart in music — there are possible parallels for "jazz" in our later literature! — but it is a very highly imaginative business. Words are attached to definitions. Their primary use is to convey meaning and the meaning they convey to one reader is approximately the same as the meaning they convey to any other reader of the same calibre. As we have seen, there must be a fair residuum of meaning in a phrase, however full it may be of submerged cadence. But chords of music are sounds with all the incoherence of sound. "The exact value of the counter," says J. A. Symonds in the essay on the Provinces of the Several Arts in "Essays Speculative and Suggestive"

"The exact value of the counter is better understood when it is a word than when it is a chord, because all that a word conveys has already become a thought, while all that musical sounds convey remains within the region of emotion which has not been intellectualised. Poetry touches emotion through the thinking faculty. If music reaches the thinking faculty at all, it is through fibres of emotion... Therefore the message of music can never rightly be translated into words" (p.89).

There is more matter on this difficult subject in the essay and in the other essay in the same volume, 'Is Music the Type or Measure of All Art?', a criticism of Pater's doctrine, "all art constantly aspires towards the condition of music", developed in the essay on the School of Giorgione in the "Renaissance". And a recent writer, Miss Katharine Wilson, in a sprightly and learned volume, "Sound and Meaning in English Poetry" (Cape, 1930) has come to some conclusions on the subject.

But, you may say, is not the difficulty of defining the fascination of these passages just the fundamental difficulty of all aesthetic, the difficulty of defining the attraction of any bit of inspiration whether in stone, or paint, or music? Perhaps there is at least one distinction, if only a partial one. May it be suggested that the beauty of so many of these prose harmonies is appreciated highly by people who have had no specialized training in their appreciation while appreciation of many of the examples in other forms is confined to those who have undergone some initiation? That is perhaps a little dubious but that no help is obtainable from aesthetics is not dubious. The

aesthetic theorist would merely take the little problem into a wilderness of words and leave it there, murmuring, probably, that it was no business of his!

Touching for a moment on the question of translation, many of the passages in Hebrew and Greek and Latin literature, most often recalled in English, owe their charm almost wholly to their cadences — the content is secondary — but a discussion of the subject would take me beyond my depth. Some translators preserve, indeed accentuate, the charm of the original. (Of this class Geoffrey Scott, who died the other day, was a notable example among the moderns). Other translators, familiar to you, do not — how many pedestrian translations of Horace there are with “all the play, the insight and the stretch” out of them! — though, of course, there are things so wonderfully phrased that it is beyond the power of any translator to spoil them. Some of the Virgilian passages seem quite unspoilable.

There is the classical example of the Psalms. The Prayer Book version is taken from the Great Bible, not from the “Authorised Version,” and a comparison of, say, Psalm 61 in the two versions will, as I think, prove that Tyndale and Coverdale, while, probably, keeping as closely to the idiom and spirit of the original, showed a far more sensitive feeling for language and greater appreciation of cadence than some of the translators of King James.

A profound acquaintance with the language of the original is supposed to be part of the equipment of a translator though there was Matthew Arnold who, not knowing Hebrew, cheerfully undertook a translation of Isaiah and produced a very interesting one! But, whatever his linguistic acquirements, the translator of masterpieces must have a feeling for the value of sound and cadence. There is an element of transfusion in the great translations. Often, when we say that a thing is untranslatable we mean that no one has arisen with the genius to capture the cadence though, when all is said, some cadences never will be captured.

To the discussion of this question — “Why are we moved so strongly and so strangely as we are by certain simple groupings of a few ordinary words?”, the late C. E. Montague, so long associated with the conduct of the “Manchester Guardian”, brought a notable contribution in a short essay entitled “The Last Question of All”, printed in a posthumous book, “A Writer’s Notes on his Trade”, a year or two ago. Mr. Montague’s well-known independence of traditional views, the habit of following his stars wherever they might lead him and an intimate and loving knowledge of the whole of Shakespeare, were his qualifications. He preferred the verse approach to the problem and, though he had no cut-and-dried solution to offer, his contribution was fruitful and thought provoking. “All lines of thought about literature” led, he said, to this “one ultimate question. It

lies at the end of more roads than Rome ever did" ... "In virtue of what do these intrinsically plain arrangements of quite common words carry the germs of a rare and noble fever of the soul from a person long dead to persons living in another age and perhaps at the other end of the world? ... Can it be traced in some more elusive quality in the actual words than any that literary criticism has yet marked down? ... Or can criticism only say that by some means which are out of its ken these heavenly lines do somehow convey a state of passionately poignant exaltation from the writer's mind to the fit reader's — and leave us to wonder whether the apparently countless sets of possibly communicative 'waves', suspected but not yet listed, that are said to ripple endlessly about the world, may include a set that enables the passionate stir of one mind to impinge directly on some specially sensitised tissue in other brains, with the aid of no more apparatus than certain verbal memoranda playing a quite subsidiary part in the business?"

"What know I?" Mr. Montague adds — "from this cascade of tough questions I take refuge for my own part in the safe old question of Montaigne".

And, I am afraid, we must leave the last word with Montaigne. You may think Mr. Montague's suggestions fanciful — any effort to rationalize the attraction of a cadence or a symphony or any other aesthetic satisfaction is bound to be a barren business — but it does us no harm to try.

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

B. OVERSEAS.

England. Prince Arthur of Connaught will open on June 29 an exhibition of Africana at South Africa House. A speech will be made by the Earl of Athlone.

India. "The Report of the Library Department of the Baroda State for the year proves that H.H. Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad is the most enlightened of all the native princes of India. With two and a half millions of subjects, he provides 773 free public libraries as well as many newspaper reading rooms, and most of the children are literate. We may not appreciate the fact that an American devised the system employed or that the shelving and travelling boxes are from New York, but it is a matter for congratulation that an Indian potentate should recognise so fully the importance of books in the lives of his people. Mr. H. M. Dutt, the Curator, has presented his report with great clarity, well arranged statistics and photographs proving that each library is well stocked." (*Current literature*, January, 1933)

WHY NOT HAVE A CHILDREN'S FREE LIBRARY?

by GLADYS OPPENHEIM, M.A.

Librarian, Bloemfontein Public Library.

"Why not have a Children's Free Library?" questioned a member of the Bloemfontein Public Library Committee at a monthly meeting, "Why not?" echoed the Committee, eager to help to create a generation that would be Library-minded, by providing this essential service in Bloemfontein. And now after much careful thought and a great deal of hard work, we have a Children's Free Library, and we hope there will soon be one in every town in South Africa.

We had to create this department out of well-nigh nothing. We only could afford to spend £2 a month on Juvenile books, and we had a stock of about 700, enough to supply our 50 odd Juvenile members who each paid a subscription of 3/- for 6 months. The Committee thought of the hundreds of children who never had anything to read, and of the hundreds of unused books lying idle in many homes, and a big book collecting campaign was inaugurated. Appeals were sent to every local society to assist us by asking their members to donate books which their own children had outgrown. The Rovers helped us collect these books and the Girl Guides helped repair them, and we soon had over a 1000 suitable books, besides those already in our Juvenile Department.

Money was donated for a Card Catalogue Cabinet, and having the books the next step was to catalogue and classify them. This was done in a simplified manner so that the children could be taught how to make proper use of Libraries.

As our adult Library is classified by the Dewey scheme, we classified the Juvenile non-fiction books as follows :

Annuals

- 100 Reference works — Encyclopaedias, etc.
- 200 Bible stories — Godsdienstige boeke.
- 400 Readers — Leesboeke.
- 500 Books which explain how and why things happen — Boeke wat uitlê hoe en waarom.
- 590 Animal Stories — Boeke oor diere.
- 620 Engineering — Books about aeroplanes and ships.
- 640 Domestic Science, Physiology — Huishoudkunde, Fisiologie.
- 700 Pictures, Music — Prente, Musiek.

- 790 Sport, Hobbies — Sport, Liefhebbery.
- 800 Literature, poems, plays—Letterkunde, Gedigte, Toneelstukke.
- 900 History, True stories—Ware verhale omtrent ware gebeurtenisse.
- 910 Travel, Explorations and adventures—Ware verhale van ontdek-kingsreise en avonture.
- 920 Lives of real people — Lewens van werklike mense.

I have just given some of the Afrikaans. In case anyone would like to use this classification, I would like to say it has answered very well, except that we now regret we did not have a special class for myths and legends, which we hope to add soon.

Despite our great financial difficulties, we managed to build a new room, and very bright and gay it looked, with all the tempting books, attractive pictures, flowers, and colourfully illustrated shelf guides and notices. Scores of poorly clad kiddies pressed their faces against the window panes, waiting for the opening day as for the fulfilment of a dream.

The opening ceremony was as novel as the actual inception of the Library. In conjunction with the schools we had run a competition, offering prizes for the best English and Afrikaans essays on "Why I am glad Bloemfontein will have a Children's Free Library". The winners of the prizes performed the actual opening ceremony, and were thanked for doing so by the Mayor before a large audience of adults and scores of children.

The Children's Library is absolutely free, we do not even charge a deposit. Each child, however, must present an application form which is signed by teacher, parent and child. We have no age limits but insist on the child being able to read and write. One wee mite wanted to join, after assuring us that her father reads for her, and her mother writes for her !

We were not able to increase the number of our staff, but we thought we could easily cope with the extra work, imagining that we would with difficulty, eventually attract about 500 members.

We were quite unprepared for the pandemonium which followed the opening of the Children's Free Library. The Library habit attacked the youth of Bloemfontein more virulently than any attack of measles!

They came in hundreds, standing in long, impatient, noisy queues, while a harassed and almost suffocated Assistant tried to enrol new members, and issue books at a high speed. After six weeks we had 1400 members! Our adult Library can only boast of 1000 subscribers !

We opened the Children's Free Library at the end of June, 1932. By the end of March, we had issued 16,694 English books and 3,215 Afrikaans books. Our biggest monthly issue was in August, namely 2800 English and 532 Afrikaans.

We found great difficulty in supplying our eager readers with sufficient Afrikaans books. Local Afrikaans societies came to the rescue by making generous donations, and even organising a tennis tournament to raise funds for the purchase of Afrikaans Juvenile literature.

Outwardly our Children's Free Library has been an outstanding success. But unless we get a Municipal Grant which will enable us to have a Children's Librarian, we shall not be able to do any constructive work apart from providing the books. At present we cannot hold story-hours or give instruction in the uses of a Library. Our shelves are in a state of chaos, and we cannot do any Reference work with the Children.

Our younger members have great difficulty in selecting books, especially as in many cases their selection of easily read books is complicated by their desire to get a book that "father can read too."

One young member returned "Little Women" with the remark that she had found it too difficult but would like to try "Little Girls!"

We find that our children's magazines and periodicals are very popular, while Annuals, as one small boy remarked "seem to go like hot cakes!"

The children, most fortunately, show no signs of the common adult complaint of new-book-fever, and many a new volume is left on the shelves for the sake of a well-worn old favorite.

The children love to recommend books they have enjoyed, and we once found on the title-page of one of our books written in childish script : "The person who takes this book won't be sorry".

Our work is constantly being brightened by humorous instances, and it is often difficult not to laugh outright, especially, for example, when one is asked for "Ampie" deur Tromp van Diggelen!

Many of our difficulties could have been avoided had we anticipated the immense popularity of our undertaking, and I hope our troubles will not deter other Libraries from starting a free department for Children.

The work of inculcating the Library habit is invaluable, and I can assure every Librarian that despite the many obstacles, if she could see the joy on the faces of little ragamuffins as they run home with a precious book firmly clasped in their arms, she would say to her Committee, without one moment's hesitation "Why not have a Children's Free Library?"

Ons lezers word verwys na 'n belangwekkende artikel in *Die Huisgenoot* van 17 Maart, onder titel 'n Opelug-Kinderbiblioteek deur Maj. Rikie Postma.

SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLICATIONS.

I. Copyright Accessions, under Act No. 9, 1916, s. 150.

With the co-operation of the libraries concerned (1) we hope later to commence publication of lists of the Union's output in English and Afrikaans. Meanwhile we would call the attention of our readers to existing efforts.

a. From November, 1929, The H.W. Wilson Co. of New York have published in their *Cumulative Book Index* lists of South African publications appearing in English.

b. For *The South African Stationery Trades Journal* J.L. van Schaik, Ltd., Pretoria, compile occasional "List(s) of [English and Afrikaans] books published in South Africa". Such lists have appeared in vol. XV, no. 3, Mch. 1932 (Oct. 1931—Feb. 1932), and in XV, no. 9, Sept. 1932 (Mch. 1932—July, 1932), and in several earlier numbers. (2)

II. Some 8,000 items were entered in the Deeds Registry Office from 1874 to 1916. Funds will not yet permit us to consider their publication in any form. Our immediate aim is to publish lists of copyright material issued since the beginning of this year, and to work backwards first to January, 1917, when Act. No. 9 of 1916 came into operation. The British Museum has a Transcript of the Copyright Register from 1894—1901.

III. Periodical Publications.

A register of births and deaths in the South African periodical world is also urgently called for after the manner of the F.W. Faxon Co.'s. record in their *Bulletin of Bibliography*. Such a feature in our columns is assured of a welcome.

The indexing of valuable periodicals published in South Africa has been mooted before (3). It is a matter calling for urgent attention. It would be helpful to ascertain in the first place what is already being done by individual libraries, and librarians are invited to notify the Hon. Editor of any such work undertaken by them. We understand that Onderstepoort indexes quite extensively.

The Royal Society of South Africa issues index-slips with every number of its *Transactions*. Perhaps an Indexing Committee could be appointed at the next Conference.

IV. Official Publications.

To the first number of the new *South African Journal of Economics* (4) Mr. Paul Ribbink, Librarian of Parliament, contributed a list of "Union Government publications" from U.G.30, 1931 to U.G.5, 1932, in addition to Reports of Select Committees, the Board of Trade and Industries (nos. 130-154), Office of Census and Statistics, Department of Agriculture, and of Customs and Excise (p. 117-20). Previous lists of the Reports of the Board of Trade and Industries appeared in the Official year book of the Union, Nos. 11, 12 and 13. Attention is also drawn to further lists appearing in the Official year books (5) and especially to Gregory's work. (6)

We shall make a feature of South African bibliographies in future numbers.

(1) The "Copyright" libraries are (a) The South African Public Library, Cape Town, (b) The Natal Society's Library, Pietermaritzburg, (c) The G.A. Fichardt Public Library, Bloemfontein, (d) The State Library, Pretoria, (e) The British Museum.

(2) Those in English were reprinted in *The Publisher and Bookseller*, Feb. 3, 1933, p. 206.

(3) *L.A.R.* 3. ser. II. no. 4 : 111, Apl., 1932.

(4) P.O. Box 5316, Johannesburg. P. S. King & Son, Ltd. are the overseas agents.

(5) Official year book of the Union, no. 6, 1910-22 : 6-8 ; no. 7, 1910-24 : 6-10 ; no. 12, 1929 ed. 30 : 7-14 ; no. 13, 1930-31 : 5-8, and others *passim*.

(6) Gregory, W., List of the serial publications of foreign governments, 1815 - 1931. New York : Wilson, 1932.

THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

I. — PRIOR TO THE BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE

By P. FREER.

With the limited space at our disposal we should not be justified in retelling here the story of library progress in South Africa before 1928. The late Bertram L. Dyer (1) and the Hon. Sir Perceval M. Laurence (2) published relevant articles some thirty years ago. Further historical sketches of the four copyright libraries are readily accessible in the Official Year books (3) and more detailed accounts of the libraries at Cape Town (4) Pretoria (5) Port Elizabeth (6) and Kimberley (7) are likewise available. Other references to the library movement here may be followed up in Cannons (8) and in the *Library Assistant* of 1928 (9) and 1929 (10).

II. — SINCE THE BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE. *

By M. M. STIRLING.

Probably the greatest event in the educational history of South Africa was the South African Library Conference of 1928, convened on behalf of the Carnegie Corporation of New York by Messrs. Ferguson and Pitt, the

- (1) The public library systems of Great Britain, America and South Africa. Kimberley, 1903 ; and, minus the Appendixes, also in the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, *Report*, 1903 : 415-28.
- (2) Public libraries in South Africa. In *his Collectanea, etc.* (Macmillan) 1899 : 256-70. Reprinted from *The Library*, IX : 3-16, 1897.
- (3) Official Year book of the Union of South Africa. No. 6 - 1910-23. Pretoria, 1924 : 296-97. Also in Nos. 1-5.
- (4) South African Public Library. *Annals*. 1818-1918. Appended to *Annual report*, 1917.
- (5) Origin and progress of the State Library : an address, etc. by Ronald W. Heaton. *The Pretoria News*, Jan. 27, 1927 : 9.
- (6) History of the Port Elizabeth Public Library, by Percy Evans Lewin (now Librarian, Royal Empire Society). In Port Elizabeth Public Library. *Catalogue*, 1906. Vol. 1 : XIX-XXIX.
- (7) Catalogue of the Kimberley Public Library ; compiled by P. M. Laurence, etc. (Wm. Clowes) 1891 : viii-xi, xxii-xxviii.
- (8) Bibliography of library economy, etc. Chicago (American Library Association) 1927, *passim*.
- (9) XXI : 215-18, Oct.
- (10) XXII : 120-32, June, *passim*.

* A full report of the findings of the Carnegie Commissioners is given in "Memorandum : Libraries in the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia and Kenya Colony", by S.A. Pitt and Milton J. Ferguson, published by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1929, 2 parts. The proceedings of the Bloemfontein Conference, 1928, were published by the Executive Committee of the Conference in 1929.

A limited number of copies of each may still be had on application to the Secretary of the South African Library Association.

State Librarian of California* and the City Librarian of Glasgow respectively. Regarded purely as a conference it was an outstanding success. Under the energetic chairmanship of Professor R. B. Young, this gathering in the short space of three days considered the library position in all its aspects and drew up a remarkably comprehensive national scheme making provision for free library service to all South African citizens including the rural population, the blind, and the Bantu and coloured peoples. School, university, government and institutional libraries were not overlooked nor was the desirability of the fullest co-operation between all libraries.

But the most important of the Conference's activities was the appointment of a committee entrusted with the formation of a library association. The South African Library Association was duly inaugurated on July 5th, 1930 with a membership of 89. During the first critical years of its existence the Association has been fortunate in receiving financial assistance from Carnegie funds placed at the disposal of the Executive Committee of the South African Library Conference. There is reason to believe that the Executive Committee will be able to continue such assistance for a year or two longer.

In South Africa, as in any other country, library development can best be studied in the activities of the Library Association. It will serve the purpose of this sketch, therefore, if the eight objects of the Association are set down and progress made briefly indicated under each, as follows : —

- (1) TO UNITE ALL PERSONS ENGAGED OR INTERESTED IN LIBRARY WORK BY HOLDING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS FOR THE DISCUSSION OF ALL MATTERS AFFECTING LIBRARIES.

Owing to the great distances between centres and the consequent expense of travel, it was decided at the inaugural meeting of the Association that general meetings of members could be held only once in every three years.** The Constitution of the Association makes provision for the formation of local or regional branches, the members of which can meet often for discussion. One such branch has already been in existence for the last two years and has proved a great success.

The total membership of the Association after nearly three years is 140. It is encouraging to note that the American Library Association had no more than 196 members at the end of its third year.

* Now Librarian at Brooklyn.

** The next meeting will be held September 25th-26th, at Johannesburg.

- (2) TO PROMOTE THE BETTER ADMINISTRATION OF LIBRARIES AND
- (3) WHATEVER MAY TEND TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF LIBRARIANS.

In the course of the past two years the Secretary of the Association has been able to visit seventy-five libraries for the purpose of conferring with, or being consulted by librarians, members of library committees and members of local town councils. Matters discussed included the making of the library "free", facilities for children, school libraries, country distribution, qualifications and payment of staff, library hours, plans for new buildings, reference work, and municipal support, etc. Advice was given in matters of library routine and administration, such as system of issue, cataloguing and classification, keeping of accounts, etc.

A considerable and increasing volume of correspondence is received by the Association from libraries requiring advice on questions of policy and administration.

- (4) TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBRARIES AND IN PARTICULAR OF FREE LIBRARIES FOR USE BY THE PUBLIC.

Although the advantages of "free" libraries have been faithfully kept before library committees it is perhaps not surprising that during the past and present depressed times any proposal involving increased municipal expenditure has little chance of success. In the Transvaal the matter is rendered more difficult owing to the extraordinary policy of the provincial administration which declines to make grants to "free" libraries. In spite of this the public spirited Town Council of Brakpan decided some years ago to make their public library "free" and to forfeit the provincial grant of £60 per annum, which the institution was then receiving. The only other library to become "free" recently in the Transvaal—and indeed in South Africa—is the State Library, Pretoria. As this library is the property of, and largely financed by the Union Government, the change from a subscription-charging, to a "free" institution is of the utmost significance for the future, indicating as it does the altered attitude of the Government towards "free" libraries. Recently the Bloemfontein Public Library Committee has been negotiating with the Town Council to take over the Library and make it a "free" municipal institution. During the nego-

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tiations the Secretary of the Library Association interviewed the Finance Committee of the Town Council. Arguments in favour of a "free" library were sympathetically discussed and there is little doubt that, when times become more normal, the Bloemfontein Library will be one of the first to become entirely rate supported.

As a result of the Library Conference the Carnegie Corporation voted the following amounts for library service amongst the Bantu and coloured people, *viz.*, approximately £1000 each to the Cape and the Transvaal, and £500 each to the Free State and Natal. Such library service has been in operation for the past two years in Natal with Durban Municipal Library as headquarters, and for the past year in the Transvaal with Germiston Library as centre. Similar arrangements are now being pushed forward in the Cape and the Orange Free State. The results of the working of the Natal and Transvaal services have been very satisfactory especially when the fact is taken into consideration that owing to lack of opportunity in the past the reading habit is utterly foreign to the Bantu races.

(5) TO WATCH ANY LEGISLATION AFFECTING PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION OF SUCH FURTHER LEGISLATION AS MAY BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

Since the formation of the Association there has been no legislation affecting public libraries as a whole. The only library affected by the State-aided Institutions Act of 1931 was the State Library.

The question of "free" library legislation is at present occupying the attention of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria Branch. A draft bill for South Africa is under consideration, and the final result of the Branch's deliberations will be referred to the Administrative Council of the Association in due course.

Perhaps it may interest readers to learn that as far back as 1914, Mr. Asher, the Librarian of Johannesburg, drafted a "free" library ordinance for the Transvaal, and, six years later, when the Germiston Library Committee gave evidence before the Local Government Commission of 1920—21, they submitted in their evidence a "free" library ordinance drafted by the then Librarian of Germiston. * Neither of these attempts to interest the Transvaal Provincial Administration in libraries was successful.

* Mr. Stirling.

(6) TO PUBLISH INFORMATION OF SERVICE OR INTEREST TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

This is now being done by means of the present Journal.

(7) (a) TO PROMOTE FACILITIES FOR TRAINING IN LIBRARIANSHIP.

(b) TO HOLD EXAMINATIONS IN LIBRARIANSHIP AND TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF EFFICIENCY.

Two highly successful annual vacation schools for librarians have already been held and a third one takes place shortly. As the very best means of providing practical tuition to country and other librarians and of stimulating librarians generally to read for professional purposes, these vacation courses are indispensable.

A lending library of professional literature has also been established, and books are freely borrowed therefrom by library workers in all parts of South Africa.

A scheme of professional examinations has been drafted and is at present under consideration by the Administrative Council.

Recently, the Witwatersrand and Pretoria Branch —through the good offices of Mr. R. F. Kennedy (Honorary Organizer), Miss E. Hartmann, Miss P. M. Speight, Mr. E. A. Borland, and Mr. P. Freer (Honorary Tutors) — has been able to arrange for correspondence courses to enable students to prepare for examinations. These courses are open to all members of the Association at a nominal cost to cover postage and stationery.

(8) TO PROMOTE THE FULLEST CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LIBRARIES, PUBLIC, GOVERNMENTAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND PRIVATE.

Since the formation of the Association, co-operation has been increasingly practised, although in an informal manner. Any library which has difficulty in supplying the needs of any of its readers may apply to the Association and an endeavour will be made to locate books required and to arrange for inter-library loans.

Much linking up between small libraries and larger centres has taken place. In Natal almost every small public library now draws books in bulk from Durban Municipal Library. In the Free State some fifteen small libraries have become linked to the Bloemfontein Library and similar arrangements in the Transvaal have existed for many years in connexion with the Germiston Library and, to a less extent, the State Library. The South African Public

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES

Library at Cape Town, too, encourages small libraries to make use of its enormous resources.

Recently an important step towards complete co-ordination and co-operation has been made possible through the generous action of the Carnegie Corporation. On condition that the State Library becomes the Central (Students) Library for South Africa and other conditions, the Corporation set aside a fund of approximately £25,000, the annual interest on which will be made over to the State Library. It is, of course, realized that, with the limited income at its disposal, the Board of the State Library will have to proceed at first with the utmost caution and be guided largely in the matter of book purchases by the actual demands received from all parts of the country. But there is no doubt that, with a reasonable amount of co-operation from other libraries, the country will find itself in possession of a new and valuable addition to its educational equipment in the course of the next few years.

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(Pretoria : The Association) 1930. 16 p. Obtainable from the Secretary.

A List of Members, embodied in a *Directory of South African Libraries* is in preparation.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

Afrikaans Bible. Supplies of the Afrikaans Bible are expected to reach the country at the end of June. Details of the various styles available will be found in recent numbers of *Die Huisgenoot*.

"Early Arabic printing at the Cape of Good Hope." Mr. S.A. Rochlin in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental studies*, vii, pt. 1 : 49-54, 1933, attempts to trace the one or two efforts made to introduce Arabic printing at the Cape of Good Hope. Our South African readers will recall another interesting article by Mr. Rochlin : "Die ersten deutschen Juden in Südafrika" (Sonderabdruck aus dem *Jahrbuch der jüdisch-litterarischen Gesellschaft*, xxi : 273-86, 1930).

Periodicals. Births. April 1. saw the publication in Johannesburg of the first number of "zerohour". According to the preface, "the function of 'zerohour' is to bring into closer relationship the public consciousness of architecture in its many manifestations and the achievements of our active contemporaries in this field. To effect this we propose to publish a series of propagandist manifestos. This issue is the first..."

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